



Dawn Gabay Operations Center
2700 S. Industrial Highway
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-973-6500 **Phone**
734-973-6338 **Fax**
TheRide.org **Online**

November 27, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express our concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide), located in Ann Arbor Michigan serves the greater Ann Arbor – Ypsilanti area in Southeast Michigan. We provide public transportation service throughout the local area. This includes transportation for those who are transit-dependent (seniors, and people with disabilities) as well as individuals who choose to travel using our services. Community members rely on our services to get to work, to medical appointments, to go shopping and to visit family and friends.

As a public agency, we strive to be transparent and highly value the services of our local public cable station to broadcast our monthly board meetings and communicate educational information about our services. This ensures the public has equal access to the latest information from our organization.

The PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act intent are to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. Access to this important communication medium enables the residents of the greater Ann Arbor area to watch uniquely local programming about their community, local events and issues of interest to them.

By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Matt Carpenter
CEO, The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide)

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner